



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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 E.O. 11652: NA
 TABS: PFOR, 53
 SUBJECT: SADAT TO RELINQUISH PREMIERSHIP

1. DURING HIS RECENT MEETING WITH EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS AUGUST 28, PRESIDENT SADAT ANNOUNCED THAT HIS ASSUMING THE PREMIERSHIP SHOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY BECAUSE CONDITIONS HAD BEEN STABILIZED, TIME NOW OPPORTUNE FOR FULL TIME PRIME MINISTER. PRESIDENT IS QUOTED IN ALL PAPERS AS SAYING THAT HE HAS CONVEYED HIS THOUGHT TO DR. HEGAZY AND THAT THE CHANGE WILL TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS THE 18 MONTH TRANSITIONAL PLAN FOR 1974-75 (SEE SEPTTEL REPORTING SADAT'S PRESENTATION) IS DRAWN UP.

2. COMMENT: AL-AKHBAR TRANSLATES SADAT'S STATEMENT REGARDING HIS NOTIFICATION OF HEGAZY THAT ONCE TRANSITIONAL PLAN IS DRAWN UP THERE WILL BE A FULL TIME PRIME MINISTER, INTO HEADLINE ANNOUNCING THAT HEGAZY WILL BECOME THE PRIME MINISTER. ALL OTHER PAPERS, INCLUDING FOREIGN LANGUAGE PAPERS, ARE MORE CAUTIOUS, REPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT LITERALLY WHICH DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE THAT HEGAZY WILL BECOME THE NEW PRIME MINISTER. WE SUSPECT SPECULATIONS WILL NOW FOCUS ON WHO IS TO BECOME THE NEW EGYPTIAN PRIME MINISTER. NOR IS IT CLEAR JUST WHEN TRANSITIONAL PLAN WILL BE READY FOR APPROVAL, ALTHOUGH IF ITS 18 MONTH SPAN ENDS DECEMBER, 1975 IT WILL HAVE TO BE READY SOON.

EILTS.

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